(a) what is the present membership of the Flying Returns Programme of Indian Airlines and Air India;

(b) till now how many persons have availed the facility of redeeming their accrued mileage points; and

(c) what steps are being taken to make this scheme more attractive?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) The membership of the Flying Returns Programme of Air India and Indian Airlines as on 16th July, 1997 is 58,000 members.

(b) A total of 3749 members have availed of the facility of redeeming accrued mileage points up to now.

(c) The following steps have been taken in this regard :—

(1) Air India has introduced a new system which has simplified the procedure of accrual of mileage points.

(2) Staff strength and infrastructure of the Member Service Centre has been enhanced.

(3) Partnership/Marketing aliiances have been entered into with American express, ITC Welcome Group, Hertz, Car Rental and Global One, whereby members enhance their opportunities to earn mileage points.

(4) Air India has a plan to set up Member Service Centres in other cities in India.

Proposal to acquire 50 seater plane by Indian Airlines

628. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines proposes to acquire 50 seater planes;

(b) if so, the economic rationale behind this move; and

(c) the schedule of acquisition of such 50 seater planes by Indian Airlines?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (c) Indian Airlines is considering the acquisition of six 50-seater aircraft for deployment on short-haul feeder routes in the priority sector of the North-east and other tourist/business destinations. Some of the stations which were operated by the turbo-prop fleet (HS 748 and F27) of Indian Airlines and Vayudoot are proposed to be connected by these aircraft.

Proposal to improve the new Terminal of Hyderabad Airport

629. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the new Airport Terminal at Hyderabad is not passenger friendly;

(b) whether it is also a fact that IAAI management has neglected aspects like Telecom facilities, costs, proper planning of floor space;

(c) what steps are proposed to improve the new Terminal of Hyderabad Airport; and

(d) the reasons for neglect?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The new international terminal building at Hyderabad airport has been commissioned recently in March, 1997. Allotment of space to the telecom department, concessionaires and others is in progress.

(c) and (d) In phase II of the plane for expansion/upgradation of Hyderabad airport, the existing domestic terminal will be modified and facilities like aerobridges, baggage trollies, etc. would be provided to improve the passenger facilities.

Airport Policy

630. SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI: SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the proposed Airport Policy;

(b) the projects where private sector investments in airport will be permissible; and